

# NOHS News

Northwest Horticultural Society

Winter 1987

## Members of Northwest Horticultural Society:

In an effort to keep our members informed of our activities you will receive a newsletter and "Pacific Horticulture" magazine - published Jan., Apr., July, and Oct. Pacific Horticulture is composed of the following horticulture groups:

- California Horticultural Society
- Strybing Arboretum Society of Golden Gate Park
- Southern California Horticultural Institute
- Western Horticultural Society

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SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

PACIFIC HORTICULTURE will want to make full use of our members' horticultural expertise and valuable contacts. They have a membership of over 16,000 so here is your chance to share your horticultural knowledge.

A series of outstanding lectures is planned for 1987. The Fern Sale in June and the Plant Sale in September are already in the planning stages. Our tours this year offer our members a chance to visit a variety of gardens. We plan to have Study Workshops starting next fall giving you an opportunity to have "hands on" experiences.

We want to encourage our members to participate in all these events. As the old saying goes, "you get out of something as much as you put into it".

Looking forward to seeing you in 1987.

*Maydele G. Anderson*

Mrs. Gordon B. Anderson  
Northwest Horticultural Society

## Seed Exchange

Have you been hunting for plants to fill specific pots in your garden? Do you need a companion for a neat little native or a replacement for one that didn't make it? Then now is the time to begin an exciting vigil which could take two to four weeks or two to three years. You will need some secluded spot protected from the weather, direct sun and other accidental damage. Be sure to consider the planting habits of squirrels, the seed sprout eating of the birds, grazing by the slugs and browsing by the deer.

Growing from seed can be very rewarding and often successful since the seedlings begin their life, develop and are planted in the same micro-climate of your garden. Through our seed exchange, one can find many species listed that are not available from growers. Though all seeds are not predictable as to their final forms and one's own system not always the best, the results are exciting!

The difficulties encountered with conventional methods of soil sterilization are complex and messy enough to make many of us run to the store for the packaged stuff. However, most all seed growers recommend - no insist on - sterile soil and containers. We know they are right, but what a hassle! You will be glad to know that you do not need to heat your soil mix for 30 minutes at 180° or worry about toxicity problems any more. Whatever the soil composition, sterilization can easily be accomplished in any standard microwave unit. Joe Dupre, in a report to the Primula Society this winter, tells of information available from the American Phytopathological Society<sup>1</sup> and by the Plant Pathology Department of the University of Kentucky which gives the results of a series of tests on the above subject. A brief recap follows and will allow for compost sterilization while you eat lunch.

Heavy plastic bags opened, (I used an oven-proof bowl) filled with compost should be exposed to high power in the microwave for seven minutes. They found that 2 lbs. wet weight, with the H<sub>2</sub>O content

## Seed Exchange, cont.

below about 35% could be successfully treated in a 2-½ minute exposure. This killed a 'damping off' fungus, a root rot fungus and most of the harmful nematodes.<sup>2</sup> But by doubling the time of exposure (or 7 minutes to 10 lbs. of soil) also eliminated a second 'damping off' fungus and another harmful nematode.<sup>3</sup> They also found that excessive treatments did not greatly affect soil nutrient levels. They did note that the results were for fairly low organic-matter content of the soil and that over 20% organic matter might be different.

From our current seed exchange, here are some seedling suggestions for native plant lovers: *Mitella breweri*, *Asarum caudatum*, *Tiarella cordifolia*, *Synthyris missurica*, the easy *Camassia* and *Sisyrinchiums*.

Take special note of species that are not available from growers. If you are rewarded with an over-abundant germination, why not trade some seedlings with another seed sprouter!

Nine exciting species of Penstemons are available. *Aquilegias* always give good germination. *Iris* give interesting and variable results. *Lapeirousia laxa* is a neat, easy-to-grow, small *iris* with interesting seed pods.

Nearly 70 species of ferns are available, *A GUIDE TO HARDY FERNS* by Richard Rush is an excellent resource. You could grow your own *Woodwardia fimbriata* or the spectacular *Dryopteris wallichiana*.

According to Marge Baird, "Rhodies and deciduous Azaleas are not as difficult to grow from seed as people usually think. My recipe for easy germination is to sprinkle the seed sparsely on a layer of sand (drenched with a fungicide) atop a pot of ½ sand and peat mix. Cover the pot with a piece of glass or thick plastic. Then set the pot in a pan with ½" of water. No more watering is necessary. Transplant seedlings into a flat when true leaves (1st or 2nd set) form and keep covered with a 'plastic bag tent'. There is absolutely nothing more beguiling than a flat of *R. quinquefolium* seedlings!"

Good growing to all you adventurous souls!

- 1 "Effects of Microwave Oven Treatment on Microorganisms in Soil" *PHYTOPATHOLOGY* 74 (1), January 1984, pp 121-126. The American Phytopathological Society, 3340 Pilat Knob Road, St. Paul, MN 55121.
- 2 Pythium species ('damping-off fungi') and Fusarium species (root rot fungi).
- 3 Rhizoctonia species ('damping off fungi') and Heterodera glycines (a nematode).

Seed Exchange committee: S. Duryee, M. Baird, S. Olsen, and J. Johanson.

## Look Forward to the Fern Festival - June 16 & 17!

June 16th Garden Tour, Lecture by Reginald Kaye from England, author of *HARDY FERNS*.  
June 16th & 17th Fern Sale

## Lecture Series

All lectures will be held at CUH at 10:30 A.M. on Tuesdays.  
Lecture Series Chairman: Mrs. William L. Gorman 525-7008

**April 14**  
**The Philadelphia Flower Show**  
**Jane Pepper**

**April 23**  
**Hergest Croft Gardens, Kingston**  
**Herefordshire, England**  
**R. Lawerence Banks**

Mr. Banks is a London banker and owner of this famous fifty-acre private garden which is one of the world's most magical and inspiring collection of trees and shrubs. Of historical interest the garden was the recipient of newly introduced plant collection from early expeditions including that of E. H. Wilson's plant hunting in China. The Banks family has lived at Hergest Croft for 170 Years

**June 2**  
**Mystery and History**  
**The Role of St. Vincent Botanical Garden in Neo-tropical Horticulture**  
**Dr. Richard A. Howard**

Dr. Howard, a professor of Dendrology at Harvard University and Director Emeritus of Arnold Arboretum, is also a noted botanist, author, and lecturer. His environmental and scientific research on tropical plants has been a valuable contribution to his field. He is an advisor to NOHS and was actively involved in planning the development for the Center for Urban Horticulture.

Jane is president of the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society, which is one of the nation's most prominent horticultural organizations. Founded in 1927, the Society is famous for its annual Philadelphia Flower show and the Philadelphia Green, a highly successful community gardening program.

A native of Scotland, Jane has a master's degree in plant sciences from the University of Delaware. Her talk will take us behind the scenes of the flower show and acquaint us with other interesting horticultural activities.

## Garden Tours

**May 5** Bus to Tacoma to see an American treasure, the garden of Mrs. Corydon Wagner, in full spring glory. Then, we will go on to the Tacoma Garden Club's noteworthy Native Garden in Point Defiance Park for a box lunch and tour. The bus will leave CUH at 9:15 A.M. and return by 3 P.M. Cost of the trip and box lunch is \$25. Please mail checks to Mrs. Don Abel, Jr., 1630 Broadmoor Drive E., Seattle, 98112. Your check is your reservation.

**May 27** Plan to bus from CUH to Bainbridge Island to see two unique settings. First, we will visit Mrs. Garrett Horder's fascinating garden of horticultural specimens and then go on to Mrs. Brantley Holt's Agate Pass Nursery, which emphasizes year-around interest and color. Join the bus at CUH at 8:30 AM and return by 3:15 PM. Cost is \$15. Bring a sandwich. Coffee, juice and cookies will be provided. Please mail checks to Mrs. Don Abel, Jr., 1630 Broadmoor Drive E., Seattle, 98112. Your check is your reservation.

## Donations

The contributions for our Horticultural Educational Fund have reached \$100,000.00! But don't stop encouraging people to contribute! Come June of '87 we will be able to start using the annual interest for educational programs for the general public. The Fund continues to grow with a recent \$200.00 contribution from the Clise family.

We have established an Endowment Fund - an essential for the projected strength of an organization. We are off to a start with a \$6,809 in contributions from John Putnam, Mrs. Pendleton Miller, Mrs. Corydon Wagner and Mrs. Walter L. Wyckoff.

Our Library Fund has reached \$2,672.00. All contributions and memorials will be so designated with acknowledgements when the funds are used for books. Further development of the library has been supported by a recent substantial contribution from Mr. and Mrs. Pendleton Miller.

## Membership

### New Members from September 1, 1986 to February 1, 1987.

K.C. Day  
1816 NE Ravenna Blvd.  
Seattle, WA 98105 526-7056

Vic and Sheila Demetre  
9124 Lake Washington Blvd NE  
Bellevue, WA 98004 454-2082

Valerie Easton  
14335 40th NE  
Seattle, WA 98125 365-8129

Elizabeth E. Ellis  
6015 Greenwood Ave N.  
Seattle, WA 98103 789-7723

Iola Groth  
3609 42nd NE  
Seattle, WA 98105 523-1940

Mary R. Hunter  
1307 E. Boston  
Seattle, WA 98102 328-8366

Gwen Hutton  
20003 15th Ave. NW  
Seattle, Wa 98177 546-3016

Mary B. Jensen  
3040 NE 45th  
Seattle, WA 98105 522-2939

Ted Marston  
13036 Holmes Point Drive  
Kirkland WA 98034 821-3858

Mary P. McCarthy  
124 NE 56th  
Seattle, WA 98105 523-7746

Robert R. McCollough  
718 1/2 E 18th Ave.  
Eugene, OR 97401 (503) 343-4191

Fritz Newmeyer  
3514 Woodlawn Ave N  
Seattle, WA 98103 633-5493

Kirsten Paterson  
8571 SE 72nd  
Mercer Island, WA 98040 236-1144

Ron Ratko  
1925 N. 49th  
Seattle, WA 98103 633-4850

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Rudd (Mary Lou)  
28303 4th Pl. S.  
Redondo, WA 98054 941-6327

Autumn Marie Scott  
741 Leland Valley Road  
Quilcene, WA 98376 385-5190

M. Jeanne Shively  
7051 - 54th N.E.  
Seattle, WA 98115 524-1949

Jackie Smith  
1839 SE 18th Place  
Renton, WA 98055 271-5924

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smith (Janet)  
9423 - 59th Ave. W.  
Mukilteo, WA 98275 355-5357

Mrs. B. Coe Stone (Cora)  
5341 S.W. Admiral Way  
Seattle, WA 98116 938-1790

Mr. and Mrs. James O. Travis  
4020 - 90th S.E.  
Mercer Island, WA 98040 232-2102

Iris Wagner  
216 - 40th E.  
Seattle, WA 98112 322-7565

# Calendar

## March

Arboretum Foundation Book Sale

Lecture by Brian Hallwell

*South African Bulbs*

Annual Primrose Show & Sale

*Washington State Chapter*

Rhododendron Species Foundation Sale

Weyerhauser Tree Sale

Visitors Center, Arboretum  
Edmonds Community College  
*128 Montlake Hall*  
CUH

March 7, 8  
March 16  
7:30 PM  
March 28

Speeies Foundation  
Weyerhauser East Parking Lot

March 28  
March 28

## April

Rhodendron Early Competition Show

Primrose Show

*Seattle Chapter*

Primrose Show

*Tacoma Chapter*

NOHS Lecture by Jane Pepper

*Philadelphia Flower Show*

Garden Sale

*Children's Hospital & Medical Center*

Japanese Bonsai Club Show

Ikenobo Ikebana Show

*Sakura Chapter*

NOHS Lecture by M. Lawerence Banks

*Hergest Croft Gardens*

*Kingston Herefordshire, England*

CUH  
CUH

April 4, 5  
April 9, 10

Taeoma Mall

April 10, 11

CUH

April 14

University Village

April 22, 23

Nisei Veterans Hall  
*1212 S. King St.*

April 18, 19

The Bon Downtown  
*International Gallery*

April 23, 25  
10:30 AM

CUH

## May

Arboretum Foundation Plant Sale

Arboretum

May 6, 7

Annual Puget Sound Bonsai Show

CUH

May 9, 10

37th Annual Spring Rhododendron Show

Visitors Center, Arboretum

May 9, 10

*Seattle Chapter, American Rhododendron Society*

## NOHS Officers

President:

Mrs. Gordon B. Ande

1st Vice President:

Mrs. Hershell H. Boy

2nd Vice President:

Mrs. James R. Scott

3rd Vice President:

Mrs. Barbara Lindber

Recording Secretary:

Mrs. William R. Plu

Corresponding Secretary:

Mrs. John A. Moore

Treasurer:

Mrs. Arthur R. Tay

Assistant Treasurer:

Mrs. J.C. Michel

Past President:

Mr. John Putnam



Northwest Horticultural Society  
Center for Urban Horticulture  
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